

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application follows:
(previously presented):

1. (original): A system for sending temporally displaced electronic messages over a network, comprising:

(a) a sending system capable of accessing a network and configured to encode a temporal specifier into an electronic message to be sent over said network to a recipient at a destination address on the network; and

(b) a retention system connected on said network, configured to decode the temporal specifier of said electronic message, store said electronic message, and send said electronic message to the destination in accord with the specified temporal specifier.

2. (original): A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the sending system comprises a first computer capable of executing programmed instructions.

3. (original): A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the retention system comprises a second computer connected to a network and capable of executing programmed instructions.

4. (currently amended): A system as recited in claim 1, wherein ~~[[the]]~~ an internet service provider (ISP) for the sending system comprises the retention system such that electronic messages sent from the sending system must pass through the retention system associated with the ISP.

5. (currently amended): A system as recited in claim 1, wherein ~~[[the]]~~ an internet service provider (ISP) for the recipient at the destination address comprises the

retention system such that electronic messages sent from the sending system must first pass through the retention system associated with the ISP of the destination address prior to arrival at the destination.

6. (original): A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the sending system further encodes the network address of the retention system into the electronic message, such that the electronic message containing the encoded temporal specifier is first sent to said retention system prior to said retention system sending the electronic message to the recipient at the destination at a time according to the temporal specifier.

7. (original): A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the retention system is capable of adding content to the electronic message.

8. (original): A system as recited in claim 7, wherein the content added by the retention system is selected from sources of content consisting of text, multimedia, graphics, sounds, files, and file pointers.

9. (original): A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the sending system is configured to encode commands for escalating the communication of the body of the electronic message to the recipient, and wherein the retention system is responsive to these escalation commands to communicate the body of the electronic message to the destination address additional times.

10. (original): A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the body of the electronic message is communicated additional times through a communication media in a format selected from the group of media formats consisting of electronic messages, telephone messages, FAX messages, and Pager messages.

11. (currently amended): A method of sending temporally displaced electronic messages over a network, comprising the steps of:

encoding a sender specified time coordinate within an electronic message;
sending said electronic message for delivery over the network to a recipient at a destination address;
receiving said electronic message from said network for processing within a retention system;
extracting the time coordinate from the electronic message;
retaining the electronic message until the specified time coordinate arrives; and
sending the electronic message to the destination address.

12. (currently amended): A method as recited in claim 11, wherein the retention system comprises a mail server provided by ~~[[the]]~~ an internet service provider ~~[[of]]~~ for the sender.

13. (currently amended): A method as recited in claim 11, wherein the retention system comprises a mail server provided by ~~[[the]]~~ an internet service provider ~~[[of]]~~ for the recipient at the destination address.

14. (original): A method as recited in claim 11, wherein the user specified delivery time coordinate is configured to be equated to a particular day.

15. (original): A method as recited in claim 11, wherein the user specified delivery time coordinate is configured to be equated to a particular day and time.

16. (original): A method as recited in claim 11, wherein the retention system provides editing and deletion capability on the retained electronic messages to the sender of the electronic messages.

17. (currently amended): A system for sending temporally displaced electronic messages over a network, comprising:

a computer system connected on said network as a service provider for systems attempting to send electronic mail to recipients; and

programming executable on said computer system~~said sending system on the network, and configured with programming~~ for,

receiving an electronic mail message from a sending system,

decoding a temporal specifier, time coordinate, from within said electronic message from the sending system,

storing said electronic message until the specified time coordinate arrives,

sending said electronic message to the destination electronic mail address in accord with the ~~specified~~ temporal specifier retained within said electronic message.

18. (previously presented): A method as recited in claim 17, wherein said temporal specifier comprises a date, time, or date and time which is encoded into the electronic message by the sending system.

19. (previously presented): A method as recited in claim 17, wherein said temporal specifier is removed from the electronic message prior to being sent by said service provider computer system to said destination electronic mail address.

20. (previously presented): A method as recited in claim 17, wherein said temporal specifier is encoded at the sending system within addressing or subject fields of the electronic message.